

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing device for controlling an output of contents, characterized by comprising:

a digital watermark information detection section for detecting a survival rate of digital watermark information distributed with said contents; and

a control section for controlling the output of said contents on the basis of said survival rate;

wherein said survival rate is a value determined according to a predetermined reference value and the amount of detected watermark over a predetermined period;

said control section controls the output of said contents on the basis of copy control information when said survival rate is higher than a predetermined threshold, and controls the output of said contents on the basis of usage information when said survival rate is lower than said predetermined threshold, both said copy control information and said usage information being included in a watermark distributed with said contents.

2. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 1, characterized in that the output contents are to be recorded on a recording medium.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The information processing device according to claim 1, characterized in that said digital watermark information contains output qualification information, said digital watermark information detection section detects said output qualification information, and said control section controls the output of said contents on the basis of said output qualification information.

5. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 4, characterized in that

said output qualification information is information for restricting the quality of output of said contents.

6. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 4, characterized in that said output qualification information is information for defining a data compression method to be applied to said output contents.

7. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 1, characterized in that said control section inhibits the output of said contents when said survival rate is less than or equal to said predetermined threshold.

8. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 7, characterized in that said threshold is included in said digital watermark information.

9. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 4, characterized in that said control section restricts the output of said contents on the basis of said output qualification information when said survival rate is less than or equal to said predetermined threshold.

10. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 9, characterized in that said threshold is included in said digital watermark information.

11. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 1, characterized in that said digital watermark information comprises a digital watermark information strong to compression and a digital watermark information weak to compression, and said control section controls the output of said contents on the basis of the presence or absence of said digital watermark information strong

to compression and the survival rate of said digital watermark information weak to compression.

12. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 11, characterized in that said digital watermark information strong to compression contains the output qualification information, said digital watermark information detection section detects said output qualification information, and said control section controls the output of said contents on the basis of said output qualification information.

13. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 12, characterized in that said output qualification information is information for restricting the quality of output of said contents.

14. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 12, characterized in that said output qualification information is information for defining a data compression method to be applied to said output contents.

15. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 11, characterized in that said control section inhibits the output of said contents when the survival rate of said digital watermark information weak to compression is less than or equal to said predetermined threshold.

16. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 15, characterized in that said threshold is included in said digital watermark information strong to compression.

17. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 12, characterized in that said control section restricts the output of said contents on the basis of said output qualification information when said

survival rate is less than or equal to said predetermined threshold.

18. (Previously Presented) The information processing device according to claim 17, characterized in that said threshold is included in said digital watermark information strong to compression.

19. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for controlling an output of contents, comprising the steps of:

detecting a survival rate of digital watermark information associated with said contents; and

controlling the output of said contents on the basis of said survival rate;

wherein said survival rate is a value determined according to a predetermined referenced value and the amount of detected watermark over a predetermined period;

said step of controlling comprises controlling the output of said contents on the basis of copy control information when said survival rate is higher than a predetermined threshold, and controlling the output of said contents on the basis of usage information when said survival rate is lower than said predetermined threshold, both said copy control information and said usage information being included in a watermark distributed with said contents.

20. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 19, characterized in that the output contents are to be recorded on a recording medium.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 19, characterized in that said digital watermark information contains output qualification information, said step of detecting said survival rate further comprises detecting said output qualification information, and

said step of controlling the output of said contents further comprises controlling the output of said contents on the basis of said output qualification information.

23. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 22, characterized in that said output qualification information is for restricting the quality of output of said contents.

24. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 22, characterized in that said output qualification information is for defining a data compression method to be applied to said output contents.

25. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 19, characterized in that said step of controlling the output of said contents further comprises inhibiting the output of said contents when said survival rate is less than or equal to said predetermined threshold.

26. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 25, characterized in that said threshold is included in said digital watermark information.

27. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 19, characterized in that said step of controlling the output of said contents further comprises restricting the output of said contents on the basis of said output qualification information when said survival rate is less than or equal to said predetermined threshold.

28. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 27, characterized in that said threshold is included in said digital watermark information.

29. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 19, characterized in that

said digital watermark information comprises a digital watermark information strong to compression and a digital watermark information weak to compression, and said step of controlling the output of said contents further comprises controlling the output of said contents on the basis of the presence or absence of said digital watermark information strong to compression and the survival rate of said digital watermark information weak to compression.

30. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 29, characterized in that said digital watermark information strong to compression contains the output qualification information, said step of detecting the presence or absence of said digital watermark information strong to compression and the survival rate of said digital watermark information weak to compression further comprises detecting said output qualification information, and said step of controlling the output of said contents further comprises controlling the output of said contents on the basis of said output qualification information.

31. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 30, characterized in that said output qualification information is for restricting the quality of output of said contents.

32. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 30, characterized in that said output qualification information is for defining a data compression method to be applied to said output contents.

33. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 29, characterized in that said step of controlling the output of said contents further comprises inhibiting the output of said contents when the survival rate of said digital watermark information weak to

compression is less than or equal to said predetermined threshold.

34. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 33, characterized in that said threshold is included in said digital watermark information strong to compression.

35. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 30, characterized in that said step of controlling the output of said contents further comprises restricting the output of said contents on the basis of said output qualification information when said survival rate is less than or equal to said predetermined threshold.

36. (Previously Presented) The information processing method according to claim 35, characterized in that said threshold is included in said digital watermark information strong to compression.

37. (Currently Amended) A storage medium having stored thereon a program executable by an information processing device for performing an information processing method, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting a survival rate of digital watermark information associated with contents; and

controlling the output of said contents on the basis of said survival rate;

wherein said survival rate is a value determined according to a predetermined reference value and the amount of detected watermark over a predetermined period;

said step of controlling comprises controlling the output of said contents on the basis of copy control information when said survival rate is higher than a predetermined threshold, and controlling the output of said contents on the basis of usage information when said survival rate is lower than said predetermined threshold, both said copy

control information and said usage information being included in a watermark distributed with said contents.

38. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 37, characterized in that the output contents are to be recorded on a recording medium.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 37, characterized in that said digital watermark information contains output qualification information, said step of detecting said survival rate further comprises detecting said output qualification information, and said step of controlling the output of said contents further comprises controlling the output of said contents on the basis of said output qualification information.

41. (Withdrawn) An information processing device characterized by comprising:

information associating means for associating contents with digital watermark information and associating said contents with a predetermined threshold set for the survival rate of said digital watermark information; and

output means for outputting said contents associated with said digital watermark information and said threshold.

42. (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 41, characterized in that said threshold is contained in said digital watermark information.

43. (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 41, characterized in that said threshold represents a reference for determining whether or not to output said contents for the survival rate of said digital watermark information.

44. (Withdrawn) An information processing device characterized by comprising:

information associating means for associating contents with digital watermark information, as well as control information representing the control for said contents permitted on the detection side when the survival rate of said digital watermark information is smaller than a predetermined value; and

output means for outputting said contents associated with said digital watermark information and said control information.

45. (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 44, characterized in that said qualified information is for controlling the output of said contents.

46. (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 44, characterized in that said qualified information is for restricting the quality in outputting said contents.

47. (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 44, characterized in that said qualified information is for defining a data compression method in outputting said contents.

48. (Withdrawn) An information processing device characterized by comprising:

information associating means for associating the contents with the digital watermark information strong to compression and the digital watermark information weak to compression; and

output means for outputting said contents associated with said digital watermark information strong to compression and the digital watermark information weak to compression.

49. (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 48, characterized in that said digital watermark information strong to compression contains a

predetermined threshold set for the survival rate of said digital watermark information weak to compression.

50. (Withdrawn) The information processing device according to claim 49, characterized in that said threshold represents a reference of judging whether or not to output said contents for the survival rate of said digital watermark information weak to compression.

51. (Withdrawn) An information processing method characterized by comprising:

a step of associating contents with digital watermark information, as well as a predetermined threshold set for the survival rate of said digital watermark information; and

a step of outputting said contents associated with said digital watermark information and said threshold.

52. (Withdrawn) The information processing method according to claim 51, characterized in that said step of associating said contents with said digital watermark information and said threshold further comprises containing said threshold in said digital watermark information.

53. (Withdrawn) The information processing method according to claim 51, characterized in that said threshold represents a reference of judging whether or not to output said contents for the survival rate of said digital watermark information.

54. (Withdrawn) An information processing method characterized by comprising:

a step of associating contents with digital watermark information, as well as control information representing the control for said contents permitted on the detection side when the survival rate of said digital watermark information is smaller than a predetermined value; and

a step of outputting said contents associated with said digital watermark information and said control information.

55. (Withdrawn) The information processing method according to claim 54, characterized in that said qualified information is for controlling the output of said contents.

56. (Withdrawn) The information processing method according to claim 54, characterized in that said qualified information is for restricting the quality in outputting said contents.

57. (Withdrawn) The information processing method according to claim 54, characterized in that said qualified information is for defining a data compression method in outputting said contents.

58. (Withdrawn) An information processing method characterized by comprising:

a step of associating contents with digital watermark information strong to compression and the digital watermark information weak to compression; and

a step of outputting said contents associated with said digital watermark information strong to compression and the digital watermark information weak to compression.

59. (Withdrawn) The information processing method according to claim 58, characterized in that said step of associating said contents with said digital watermark information strong to compression and said digital watermark information weak to compression further comprises containing a predetermined threshold set for the survival rate of said digital watermark information weak to compression in said digital watermark information strong to compression.

60. (Withdrawn) The information processing method according to claim 59, characterized in that said threshold represents a reference of judging whether or not to output said

contents for the survival rate of said digital watermark information weak to compression.

61. (Withdrawn) A program storage medium for use to supply a program to an information processing device, said program comprising:

a step of associating contents with digital watermark information, as well as a predetermined threshold set for the survival rate of said digital watermark information; and

a step of outputting said contents associated with said digital watermark information and said threshold.

62. (Withdrawn) A program storage medium for use to supply a program to an information processing device, said program comprising:

a step of associating contents with digital watermark information, as well as control information representing the control for said contents permitted on the detection side when the survival rate of said digital watermark information is smaller than a predetermined value; and

a step of outputting said contents associated with said digital watermark information and said control information.

63. (Withdrawn) A program storage medium for use to supply a program to an information processing device, said program comprising:

a step of associating contents with digital watermark information strong to compression and the digital watermark information weak to compression; and

a step of outputting said contents associated with said digital watermark information strong to compression and the digital watermark information weak to compression.

64. (Canceled).